

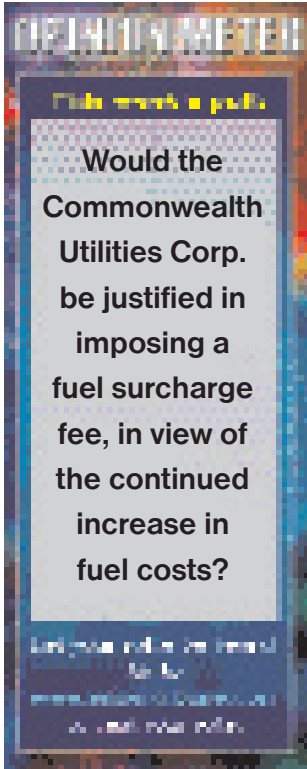
Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIV, Issue No. 316

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2004


www.saipantribune.com 50¢



I N S I D E

Local

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The logo for "Island Snapshots" is written in a stylized, red, cursive font. The word "Island" is larger and more prominent than "Snapshots".

The Saipan Tribune accepts contributed pictures of birthdays, weddings, baptisms, and other community and family events for free publication. Material submitted should be original and not copyrighted, in digital or print format. Must include a caption containing complete details (a description of the event, identities of the persons in the picture, the date, and the place), the name of the contributor, and a contact number. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to edit the caption, the date of publication and the size of the picture. Contributors can e-mail their submissions to editor@saipantribune.com. To check if contributions are received, call 213-6287, 213-3448, or 213-8743.

BABY NEWS

phi

REMINGTON

BANK OF SAIPAN
PROMO
CMYK

COMMUNITY Briefs

Chaplain available to FRG members

The Echo Company 100th Battalion 442nd Infantry Family Readiness Group (FRG) would like to inform all families of our soldiers that Chaplain Lynde will be available today, Dec. 1, at the Reserve Center, Puerto Rico, Saipan. Should you have any questions, call the Reserve Center for the Rear Detachment Officer (RDO) Sgt. Dan Quitugua or our FRG Leader Ms. Cil Blas at 322-6680.

Free conference on domestic violence tomorrow

The Domestic Violence Conference Steering Committee will be hosting a Domestic Violence Conference on Dec. 2 and 3, 2004, at the Hyatt Regency SandCastle. Admission is free.

Some of the topics are Dynamics of Domestic Violence, Temporary Restraining Order Process, the new Domestic Violence Law, and the Criminal Justice System's Response to Domestic Violence.

Seating is limited so call as soon as possible to register.

For more information contact Patrick Diaz at 236-9783, Ursula Aldan at 236-9868, or Esther Milne at 323-1954.

NCEES examination set

The Board of Professional Licensing wishes to inform the general public that it would be giving the National Council of Examiners for engineering and surveying (NCEES) principles and practice of engineering examination (civil, structural, electrical, and mechanical) professional land surveying examination on Friday, April 15, 2005; and the fundamentals of engineering and fundamentals of land surveying examination on Saturday, April 16, 2005.

Applications to take the examinations must be submitted to the Board of Professional Licensing Office no later than Jan. 1, 2005.

For additional information, contact the board at 234-5897 or fax at 234-6040 or visit the office located on the 2nd floor of the Island Commercial Center building (above Multi-Line Supply) Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan.

CCLPC commissioners meeting notice

The Chamorro/Carolinian Language Policy Commission will conduct its regular meeting on Friday, Dec. 3, 2004, at 1pm, at the Office on Aging Conference Room. The public is invited to attend this meeting.

For more information, contact the Language Commission Office at 288-5321/26/27.

S&NISWCD meeting next week

The Saipan & Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District would like to inform the general public of a meeting to be held on Dec. 7, 2004, at 1:30pm at the Natural Resources Conservation Service Office. For more information call 234-6170.

Deadline set for EAP scholarship

The Educational Assistance Program Winter/Spring 2005 deadline is Dec. 15, 2004.

EAP is for those who have completed their high school requirement and desires to pursue a postsecondary education (certificate to bachelor's degree).

EAP provides funding to assist defray educational cost for eligible individuals for the following program:

- on-island/offisland enrolled at an accredited institution as a fulltime status;

- on-island fulltime employee who desires to pursue a postsecondary education on a part-time status;

- on-island students taking courses online which are not offered at Northern Marianas College.

Upon availability of funds, EAP offers financial assistance for the following programs: Graduate, Juris Doctor or Doctor of Medicine.

Application must be received or postmarked no later than Dec. 15, 2004. If you have submitted an application for Fall 2004, the application is still valid.

Students to send letters to NMI soldiers

Public and private school students in the Commonwealth are writing holiday letters to CNMI military personnel who won't be home in the CNMI for the holidays.

The letters are part of Project Holiday Cheer, which is being sponsored by the Office of the Governor, the Public School System, the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs, VFW Post 3457, the Pacific STAR Center for Young Writers, and the Pacific STAR Young Writers Foundation.

Packets will include letters and a t-shirt designed by one of the student illustrators.

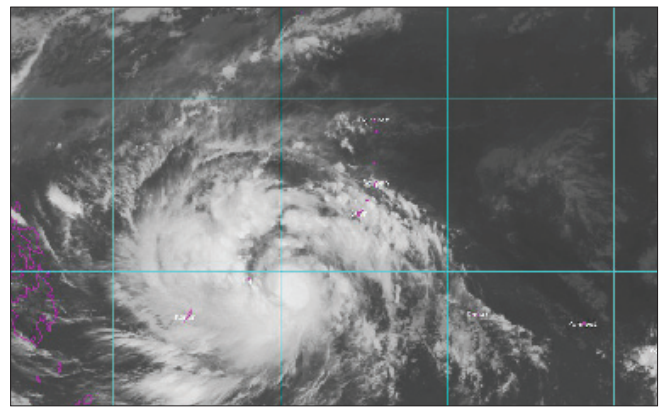
"If you have a family member or know someone in the military who won't be home for the holidays, please provide us with an address so a packet can be mailed from the CNMI community," project organizers said in a statement.

Individuals can page Katharyn Tuten-Puckett at 236-READ and she will return the call to get the address.

| FLIGHT SCHEDULE JAN 15 NOVEMBER 2004 | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE | | | | | | | | | | | |
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WEATHER FORECAST



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 AM., NOVEMBER 30, 2004

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Nanmadol is located near 8n141e...which is around 180 miles east-southeast of Yap. Nanmadol is moving west-northwest at 18 mph with maximum sustained winds of 85 mph. Widespread showers...scattered thunderstorms and gusty winds associated with Nanmadol are currently between 3n and 16n from 132e to 148e...which is over Yap and Palau. For more information on typhoon Nanmadol see jtWC bulletin issued under WMO header WTPN31 pgTW. A monsoon trough extends from around 6n130e into typhoon Nanmadol near 8n141e then southeast to the equator at 166e. Convergent flow into the monsoon trough south of Kosrae is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between the equator and 6n from 162e to 170e. A shear line extends from 25n148e to 15n130e. Cloudiness and showers are found along and within 200 miles north of this line.



SAIPAN AND TINIAN

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: East at 15 mph with gusts to around 20 mph.

Temperature: Highs around 87. Lows around 77.



GUAM AND ROTA

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: East around 10-15 mph.

Temperature: Highs around 86. Lows around 76.



PALAU

Typhoon conditions possible. Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.

Winds: West at 20-30 kt.



POHNPEI

Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.

Winds: East at 15-20 kt.



YAP AND ULITHI

Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms.

Winds: Tropical storm conditions ending early morning with South wind up to 45 kt...decreasing to 15-25 kt in the afternoon.



KOSRAE

Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.

Winds: East at 15-20 kt.



CHUUK

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: Southeast at 15 kt.



MAJURO

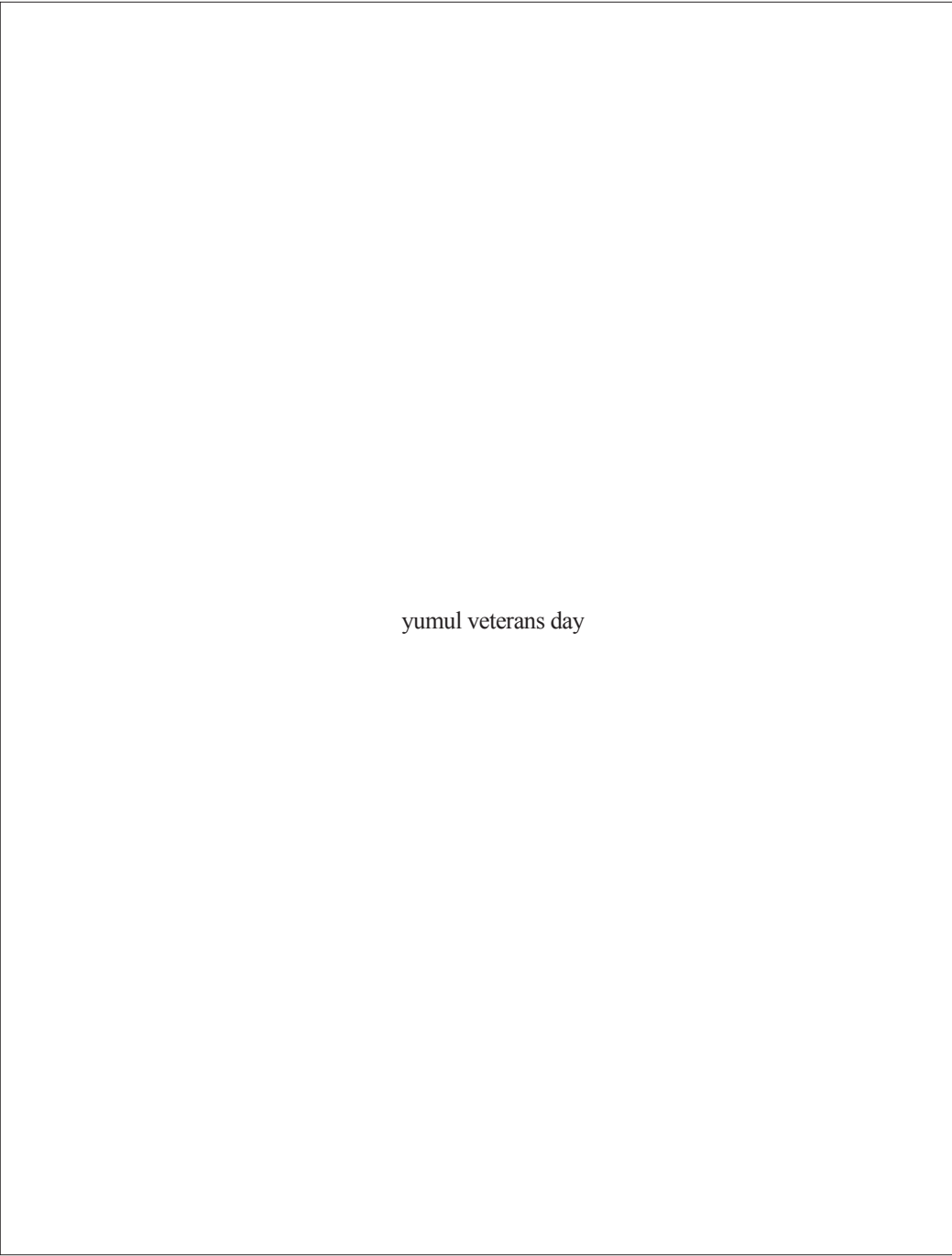
Partly cloudy with scattered showers.

Winds: East at 15 kt

| CITY | FORECAST | HIGH | LOW |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| Auckland | Cloudy | 68 F (20 C) | 52 F (11 C) |
| Beijing | Sunny | 41 F (5 C) | 23 F (-5 C) |
| Hong Kong | Sunny | 74 F (23 C) | 62 F (17 C) |
| Honolulu | Showers | 84 F (29 C) | 72 F (22 C) |
| London, England | Partly Cloudy | 48 F (9 C) | 36 F (2 C) |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | 67 F (19 C) | 38 F (3 C) |
| Manila | Thunder | 85 F (29 C) | 75 F (24 C) |
| Melbourne | Sunny | 85 F (29 C) | 71 F (22 C) |
| Miami | Sunny | 83 F (28 C) | 68 F (20 C) |
| New York City | Cloudy | 48 F (9 C) | 42 F (6 C) |
| Osaka | Sunny | 53 F (12 C) | 36 F (2 C) |
| Paris | Partly Cloudy | 41 F (5 C) | 33 F (1 C) |
| Pusan | Sunny | 58 F (14 C) | 38 F (3 C) |
| Rome | Cloudy | 58 F (14 C) | 46 F (8 C) |
| Salem, Oregon | Showers | 47 F (8 C) | 36 F (2 C) |
| San Francisco | Sunny | 55 F (13 C) | 40 F (4 C) |
| Seoul | Sunny | 45 F (7 C) | 30 F (-1 C) |
| Tokyo, Japan | Partly Cloudy | 53 F (12 C) | 42 F (6 C) |
| Washington, DC | Cloudy | 52 F (11 C) | 35 F (2 C) |

ACE
+RED

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



yumul veterans day

CUC eyes new fuel supplier

By **AGNES E. DONATO**
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is giving itself over four months to find a new fuel supplier in an effort to ensure a competitive selection process.

CUC's current two-year contract with Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. will remain effective until April 30, 2005. But CUC board of directors as early as yesterday instructed the management to put out a request for proposals for interested fuel suppliers.

In a unanimous decision, the board directed the management to publish the RFP by Dec. 21 and to finalize a scope of work two weeks thereafter.

"Four months can go so fast. We decided to do the RFP ahead of time, hopefully to get some

competitive bids from fuel suppliers around the world," said board member Joe Torres.

CUC chair Francisco Q. Guerrero said CUC is also trying to give interested contractors ample time to study the utility firm's existing facilities, as well as the investment that they would need to make.

Guerrero said the next supplier will likely be awarded a 5-year contract with CUC, giving them enough time to recoup their outlay.

The RFP, he added, will be sent to the American Public Power Association and the Pacific Power Association to reach more fuel companies.

Torres also said the RFP will be for the supply of diesel, which is the fuel currently used at CUC power plants.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is urging CUC to convert its power plant to burning the cheaper black fuel, rather than diesel, to cut the firm's operation expenses, especially in view of the rising cost of fuel.

"The goal of the RFP is just to address the present situation [which is the approaching expiration of CUC's contract with Mobil]. We are sticking with diesel until such time that the utility is ready for overhauling the power plant system," Torres said.

Production fuel is one of CUC's biggest expenditures. Due to the consecutive price hikes, CUC spent a total of \$39.7 million for fuel in fiscal year 2004—an increase of \$12.1 million from FY 2002 and a \$6.4 million from FY 2003.

MHS students working for trip to Japan

The Marianas High School Japanese Club is currently on a mission to raise enough funds to support 12 students who hope to take part in an annual cultural exchange trip to Japan early next year.

With airfare costing about \$650 each, students have been conducting fundraising activities, including hot lunches and a car wash, and have solicited help from companies around the island. Another hot lunch would be held this Saturday at the Civic Center, and a raffle

drawing on Dec. 23.

The group, according to club member Carmelita Guterrez, is expected to leave for Japan on Jan. 5, 2005, and return on Jan. 15. During their stay, they would be hosted by students from Seisa Gakuen High School.

Guterrez said the trip will serve as an experience of a lifetime as the students would also be given ski lessons while in Hokkaido, as well as a day at Disneyland.

She said individuals or businesses interested in assisting

the group may contribute cash donations or prizes for the raffle drawing.

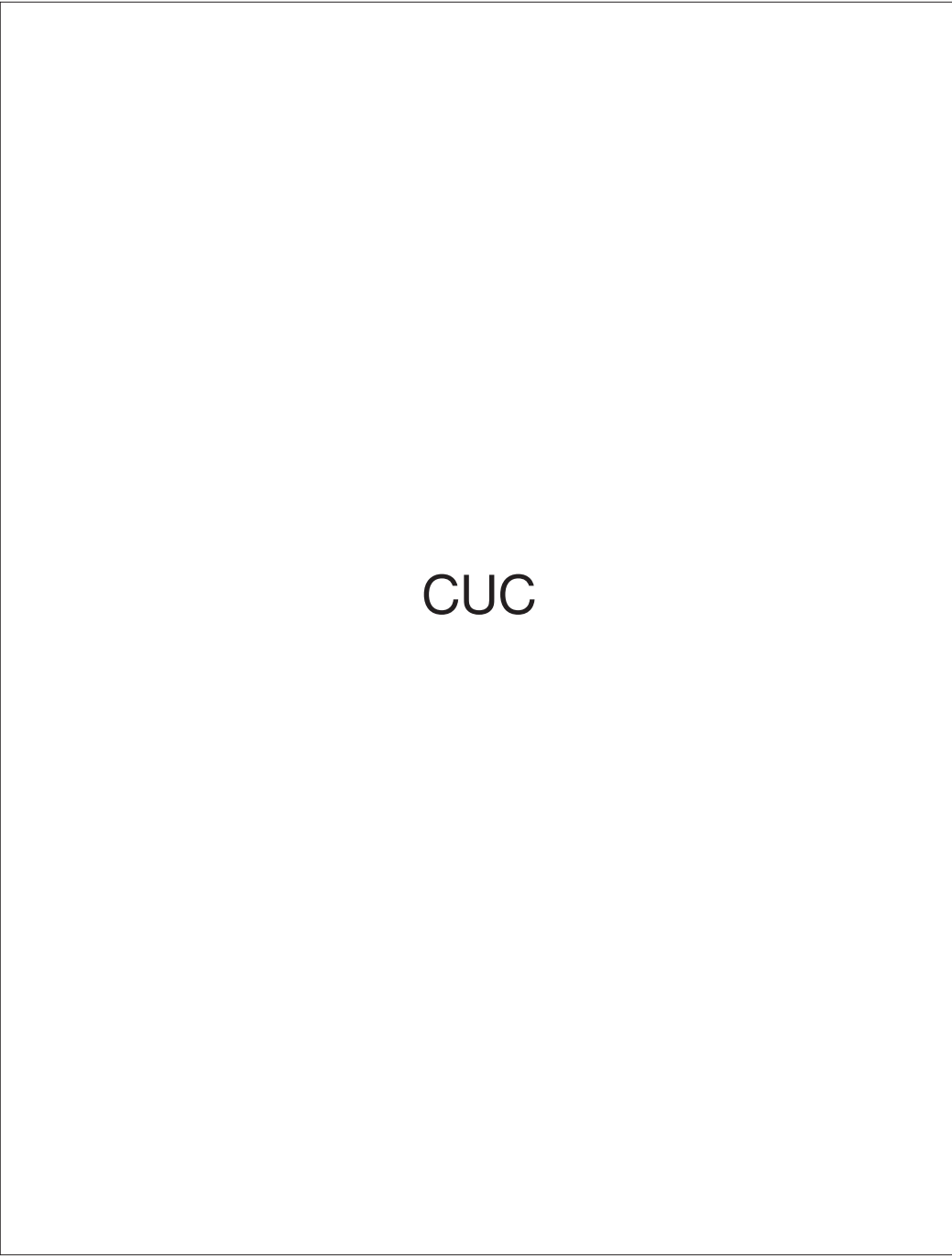
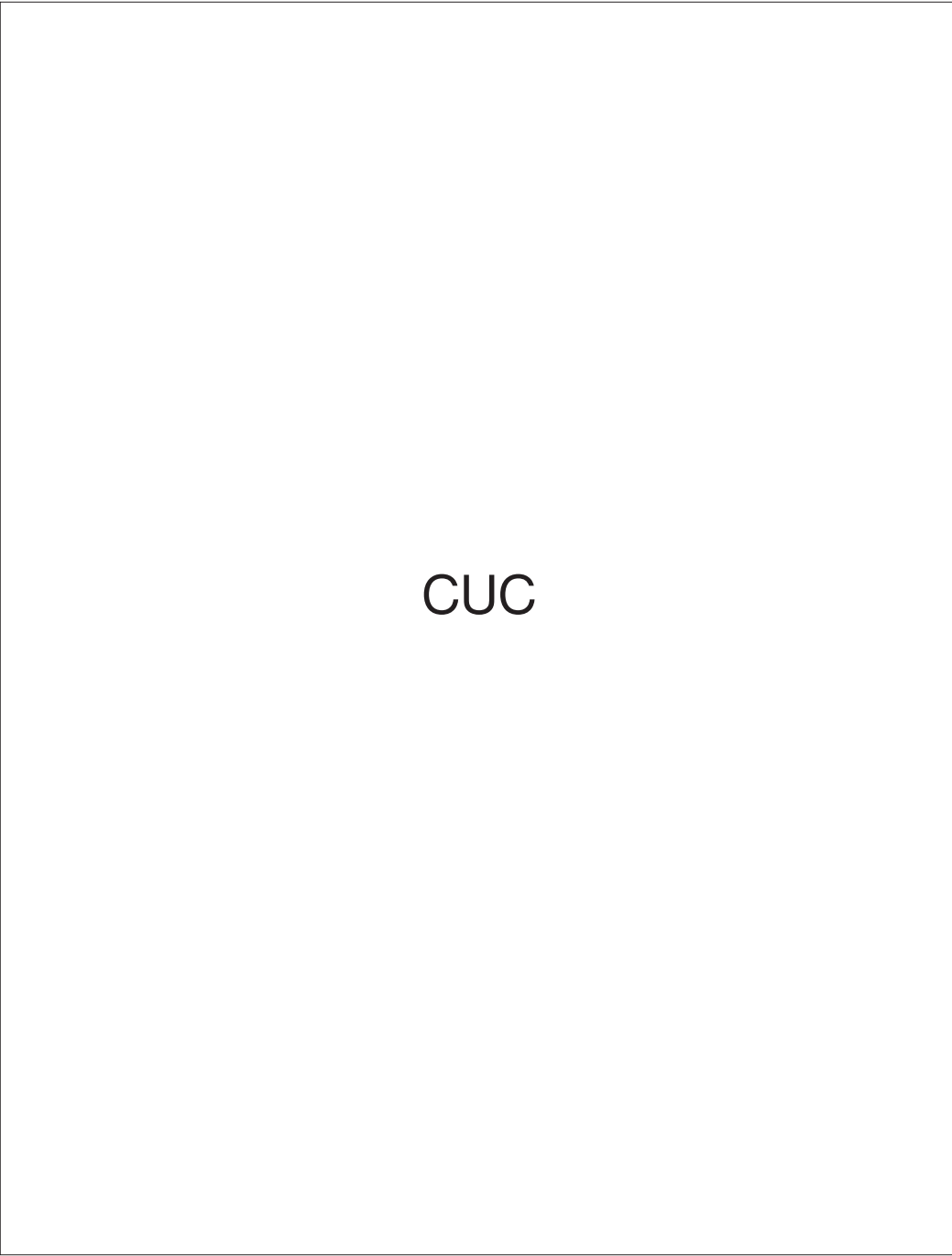
For the past 18 years, students from Seisa Gakuen and Marianas high schools have been involved in the program. The Japanese students, sometimes about 100, would arrive in May and take part in the Marianas High School's Cultural Day celebration, as well as tour historical sites on the island.

Contact Guterrez at 287-1605 or club president Na Sil Heo at 234-2291. *(Shan Seman)*

I CONNECT
CMYK

CUC ROTA

Island Snapshots



Crime Stoppers launches another new feature

The NMI Crime Stoppers program has launched another feature to the NMI Crime Stoppers program.

The NMI Crime Stoppers tape recorded. All calls and online tips remain anonymous.

The NMI Crime Stoppers program was formed by the Saipan Rotary Club on April 18, 1989. Since its inception NMI Crime Stoppers has provided information to law enforcement agencies allowing them to clear 210 cases (two of which were homicide cases), 167 arrests, \$197,793 worth of stolen property recovered, \$2,383,985 worth of narcotics recovered and \$10,150 in rewards paid.

Just last month the NMI Crime Stoppers program implemented a new feature making it possible for anyone with Internet access to submit anonymous tips online. The program’s most recent addition was implemented on Dec. 9, featuring an “always answer” feature. Now when you call the NMI Crime Stoppers Tips Line at 234-7272 (PARA) the phone will “always” be answered by a person. The program will not longer utilize a tape recording if the phone is not answered because now the phone will be “always answered.”

This new program feature is made possible by utilizing a telephone answering service called Alternative Answers. They are located in Bolton, Ontario, Canada. If your call is not answered here within the first two rings your call will automatically be forwarded to Alternative Answers in Canada. The line is operational 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. So, all of your calls will be “always answered.” There is no charge to the caller for this feature. The NMI Crime Stoppers program pays for the call and any fees to Alternative Answers. So again, it is important to know that this service and these calls are all free to the public. This is also true for Tinian and Rota.

The NMI Crime Stoppers program said it is confident that this new program feature will increase both the quantity of calls and the quality of calls coming in to Crime Stoppers. Alternative Answers answers only calls to Crime Stoppers programs. No one in Canada is going to be able to identify your voice and be able to determine who you are. When the tips are received at Alternative Answers, they in turn fax the tip information to the NMI Crime Stoppers program where it is forwarded to law enforcement for follow up investigation. The NMI Crime Stoppers program has no way of even knowing the gender of the caller. The same is true of anonymous online tips received by the program.

This feature provides an enhanced added capability to submit anonymous tips to the NMI Crime Stoppers program. Anonymous tips can now be submitted to NMI Crime Stoppers in the following ways:By calling the Crime Stoppers Tips Line at 234-7272 (PARA). Your call will be “always answered”; by submitting tips online at www.nmicrimestoppers.com, the NMI Crime Stoppers website. Hosted by Verizon; by calling *11 from any Verizon cell phone (free call / no minutes).

All of the above features apply to Saipan, Tinian and Rota. Caller ID is never used, and no calls are

MICROL TACOMA
+RED

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIV, Issue No. 148

Published daily at 2/F Century Insurance Building,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

John Pangelinan PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is the owner of Positively Outrageous Results. They have consulted with over 400 businesses in 40 different industries. For better business results go to BizResults.biz to read previous articles.



Letters to the Editor

Saipan Tribune welcomes contributions. All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name, address and, if possible, fax or telephone number. Letters are edited for space, clarity and fairness.

KARIDAT
From Page 1







Life & Style

Top lottery winner struggles with fortune

The world's first glimpse of Jack Whittaker, winner of the richest undivided lottery jackpot in U.S. history, was of a boisterous, happy-go-lucky guy in a big cowboy hat who loved his family, work and God and promised to share his good fortune with the church and the poor. Two years later, the picture the public is seeing now is a mug shot of a haggard, somber Whittaker.

Whittaker, 57, has been arrested twice for drunken driving in the past year and has been ordered to go into rehab by Jan. 2 for a 28-day stay. On Monday, he pleaded no contest to charges he attacked a bar manager, and he is accused in two lawsuits of making trouble at a nightclub and a racetrack.

"That's probably the unfortunate situation of maybe having too much money, too much time on his hands," said Steve Zubrzycki, who works for a company that started selling "Where's Jack?" T-shirts after authorities issued an arrest warrant for Whittaker earlier this month.

Although he was already a wealthy contractor, Whittaker became an instant celebrity on Christmas Day 2002 after winning a \$314.9 million Powerball jackpot. He took his winnings in a lump sum of \$113 million after taxes, and at a news conference in which he came across as a jolly saint, he promised to donate one-tenth to his church and contribute to other causes.

He soon created a charity to help people find jobs, buy food or get an education; he split \$7 million among three churches; and he gave money to improve a Little League park and buy playground equipment and coloring books for children.

But in August 2003, a briefcase containing \$545,000 in cash and cashier's checks was stolen from Whittaker's sport utility vehicle while it was parked at a strip club, and police disclosed that Whittaker not only frequented strip clubs but was also a high-stakes gambler—which is why he was carrying so much cash.

The break-in was the first of several thefts involving Whittaker's vehicle, his office and his house in Scott Depot, a booming bedroom community of about 8,000 situated between Charleston and Huntington, West Virginia's two biggest cities.

One of the thefts occurred at his home on the same day an 18-year-old friend of Whittaker's granddaughter was found dead there. The death remains under investigation. Whittaker was out of town at the time, but the young man's death made the lottery winner part of yet another front-page story.

(Also, last week Whittaker reported that his 17-year-old granddaughter was missing. The family had not seen or heard from Brandi Lasha Bragg since Dec. 4. Authorities are investigating.)

In May, two men sued Whittaker, claiming they were injured when they were tossed out of a nightclub at his request. In another lawsuit, three female employees of a racetrack claim Whittaker assaulted them last year.

In January, he was accused of threatening and assaulting a bar manager; on Monday, he was fined \$100 and ordered to attend weekly Alcoholics Anonymous meetings.

"As if we needed another hit on our image as a backward, hillbilly state, along comes Jack Whittaker to reinforce the comedy cracks like Jay Leno makes," grouched Dewey Large of Princeton. "This clown is not capable of handling a \$10 bill, much less all those millions. Every time you turn around, he's having trouble with the laws of our state. What a waste of all that money."

During Monday's plea hearing, a lawyer for Whittaker said he has donated more than \$20 million to charity since he won the lottery.

Today, his charitable foundation is closed, according to a secretary at Whittaker's company. The legal troubles have raised questions about whether he will be able to fulfill his many promises to help others.

Whittaker has an unlisted number, and his lawyers did not respond to requests for an interview. He told the AP last year that he had been bombarded with requests for help, and the fame was taking a toll on his family.

"If I had to do it all over, I'd be more secluded about it," he said. "I'd do the same things, but I'd be a little more quiet."

Lottery winners commonly regret being so public about their windfalls, said Susan Bradley, founder of the Sudden Money Institute in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

"You're really in an international spotlight," Bradley said. "The expectations of you are just—it never ends. It's exaggerated by anyone who feels they are entitled or have an opportunity to grab a piece of it."

As for Whittaker, "I think it's pretty sad, really," said Jerry Medley of Hurricane. "It just goes to show money can't always buy happiness." He added: "I don't have no bad feelings about the guy. I just hope he gets his life straight. I think he could do some good with the money." (AP)



Andrew 'Jack' Whittaker and his wife Jewell of Scott Depot, W. Va., are seen on NBC's The Today Show in New York City in this December 2002 file photo, after winning the biggest undivided lottery prize in history. Whittaker, 57, has been arrested twice for drunken driving in the past year, and prosecutors have ordered him to go into rehab by Jan. 2 for a 28-day stay. He also faces charges he attacked a bar manager, and is accused in two lawsuits of making trouble at a nightclub and a racetrack.

AP

BOG HOLIDAY CASH

Blazing a path to very old age

By SHARI ROAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Most of the people Dr. Claudia Kawas refers to as “trailblazers” enter her Laguna Woods, Calif., medical clinic haltingly, often with walkers or canes, or clutching the hand of someone with a steadier gait. Some don’t come into the clinic at all; they’re at home, bedridden.

But the trailblazer description is fitting. It refers to a group of Americans who have far exceeded average life expectancy and are now showing others not only what it’s like to reach very old age—but also, maybe, how to get there.

Kawas, a professor of neurology, neurobiology and behavior at the University of California, Irvine, is the architect of a \$9 million federally funded study monitoring the health and well-being of people 90 and older in Laguna Woods. Her work is part of a growing body of research into the phenomenon she calls extreme aging.

“In order to understand aging, you need to understand how to age well,” Kawas says. “These people are the fastest-growing segment of the population, but we don’t know much about them. We don’t know how many are demented or how many of them are walking around well.”

A description of extreme aging is starting to jell, however, thanks to Kawas’ data and that of a few other longevity studies. And the information is timely. Slight fewer than 2 million Americans are 90 and older, but that number is expected to grow to 10 million by 2050.

Understanding the health needs and quality of life among the very old is essential, Kawas says. But relatively little is known about the status of this group. For example, when she first began the project, Kawas was able to locate only a couple of studies on dementia rates in people older than 90—a key area of concern for researchers.

More research has been done since then. But, she says, “We still don’t know if the dementia rate increases, decreases or stays the same after 90. If half of all these people have dementia, that will be 5 million people with dementia in 2050. That’s double what we have now. We have a public health issue looming here.”

Making sense of the numbers is only possible by examining one 90-plus-year-old at a time—something Kawas’ staff does patiently. Their subjects are residents of the enormous Leisure World retirement community in Laguna Woods. The study, called the Leisure World Cohort Study, actually began in 1981 when University of Southern California researchers started collecting health and lifestyle data, via mailed questionnaires, from about 14,000 Leisure World residents.

Two years ago, researchers identified 1,160 people in the group who were then 90 or older. About 800 of these people agreed to enter a more rigorous study, called the 90-Plus study, in which they would undergo a multitude of medical, psychological and functional tests every six months.

Kawas and her staff were touched and surprised by the number of people who agreed to join them in their quest.

“I think they want to make a contribution,” says Kawas, whose gentle and cheerful approach to her subjects creates a kind of family atmosphere in the clinic. “They recognize this won’t help them in any direct way. It’s altruistic. But there is a note of pride. They want to show off.”

Although many participants are too frail to come into the clinic and instead undergo limited testing at home, others seem to enjoy the experience.

On a recent afternoon, Renee Rauch, 92, is attending her exam dressed in a fashionable gray sweater ensemble with a matching beret and sunglasses. During a memory test, she jokes and verbally spars with research assistant Carole McIntyre.

“Mrs. Rauch, what is today’s date?” McIntyre asks.

“Nov. 2,” Rauch says.

“What city are we in?”

“Laguna Woods,” she responds.

“In order to understand aging, you need to understand how to age well,” Kawas says. “These people are the fastest-growing segment of the population, but we don’t know much about them.”



Barbara Agee checks the reflexes of Renee Rauch, 92.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

“What state are we in?”

“A state of confusion,” Rauch answers without missing a beat. She laughs at her joke.

“Now, Mrs. Rauch, I meant the geographical state,” McIntyre says.

“Oh, OK. California.”

The testing can be rigorous for people many years past retirement. Subjects are asked to recall names, dates and lists; copy geometric figures; perform mathematical problems; and submit handwriting samples. They have their hearing, language, vision and movement tested, give blood and undergo physical exams. They share information about their health problems and their medications.

Many become tired during the testing, Kawas says. And some subjects fret that they won’t be able to complete the work or won’t do well. Bev-

erly Ducey, the clinic’s recruiter, calls patients to remind them of their appointments. She often has to do some cajoling.

“They may say, ‘I’m too old. I don’t want to do this,’” Ducey says. “I tell them they’re not too old; they’re important to the study.”

Vivian Jones, 93, agrees that the testing can sometimes feel like a personal challenge.

“I do it because I like to see how my brain is working,” Jones says. “But I worry about being a failure.”

Kawas and her staff, of course, know that there is no such thing as a passing or failing grade in the 90-Plus Study. Good results or bad, the test results provide rich information for them to chew on.

For example, a review of lifestyle data showed that diet and intake of antioxidant vitamins appears to have had little effect on longevity. But

moderate wine drinking (about one to two glasses a day) was linked to longevity, as was daily consumption of caffeinated coffee. Being even borderline overweight or too skinny decreased the odds of surviving to age 90, while a moderate body mass index in later adulthood increased the odds. Being physically active well into adulthood also increased survival to 90.

Some findings are perplexing. Although a major national study of women showed that taking hormone replacement therapy can increase the risk of heart attack or stroke, Kawas’ data found that women who used estrogen had a lower risk of dying before 90.

Quality-of-life and depression measurements tend to show people who are quite happy, Kawas notes. And in data presented to the American Geriatric Society last spring, Kawas’ group found that most of the extreme-agers could accomplish many daily living tasks independently, such as bathing, eating, dressing, shopping, bill paying, cooking and using the telephone.

But old age isn’t a picnic for everyone. The study found that after 90 there is a decline in all areas of cognitive functioning. “They become much slower in their cognitive functions,” Kawas says. Falling was a problem for about 40 percent of the group—an area in which medicine needs to provide much more preventive help to the elderly, she says.

Besides identifying lifestyle factors that may contribute to longevity, the study is also trying to determine if very old people are simply fulfilling their genetic destiny. Previous research has shown that longevity runs in families. About 500 of the participants have contributed their DNA to the study in a search for so-called longevity genes.

“There is no question in my mind that longevity is a combination of genetics and environment,” Kawas says. “That’s really what our study is all about, to collect genetic information and collect lifestyle information and see which of these is important.”

A final piece of the study is a look—after death—at the brains of the very old. About 100 participants have agreed to donate their brains for autopsy so that researchers can examine them. Cognitive studies have shown that roughly one-third of the participants have dementia (such as Alzheimer’s disease), one-third have some memory trouble and one-third are fine.

But scientists have been perplexed at the 25 brains autopsied so far. The brains of people with dementia often look normal. “These brains are not what you would expect to see in very old age,” Kawas says.

Studies such as the one being done in Laguna Woods contribute genetic and lifestyle information, says Dr. Robert Butler, president of the International Longevity Center in New York City.

“One thing we’re beginning to understand through these various longevity studies is that such individuals seem to age more slowly,” he says. “For example, women who become centenarians have shown the capacity for having babies later in life.”

Genetic studies so far suggest that an area on the fourth chromosome may contain clues about longevity.

“This tells us there may be certain characteristics about those who are able to live exceptionally long that might be useful for people of all ages,” says Butler, a professor of geriatrics at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City.

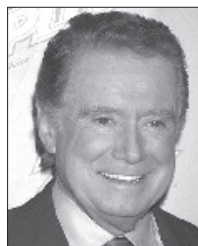
But besides gathering reams of data, working so close to “extreme agers” is something of an inspiration, the UCI team says. Some of the things they learn from their participants are unexpected and don’t quite fit into their charts and graphs and computer analyses.

For example, when asked why she thinks some people live to a very old age, Vivian Jones says it’s all about mind-set. She believes those who find a reason to live, such as helping others, live longer.

“It’s about giving of yourself and what you have—sharing,” she says.

Philbin to sub for Clark on New Year's Eve

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—A week after suffering a mild stroke, Dick Clark remained hospitalized and his spokesman announced that Regis Philbin will fill in as host of ABC's "New Year's Rockin' Eve 2005."



Philbin

"It'll feel strange watching it on TV but my doctors felt it was too soon," Clark said in a statement Monday. "I'm sure Regis will do a great job and I'm thankful that he was able to step in on such short notice."

Clark suffered the stroke Dec. 6. Publicist Paul Shefrin wouldn't identify the hospital or say if there had been any paralysis.

"Things get a little better every day," Shefrin said. "His brain is 100 percent. His brain is not an issue at all."

The 75-year-old entertainer, who went from hosting "American Bandstand," "Bloopers" and game shows to producing awards ceremonies, has been host of a New Year's Eve special for 32 years.

"It's the greatest 'temp job' in the world," said Philbin, co-host of the syndicated daytime talk show "Regis & Kelly."

Subbing for ailing entertainers is becoming a bit of a specialty for Philbin, who filled in for David Letterman when the "Late Show" host underwent heart bypass surgery in 2000 and recovered from an eye infection in 2003.

Philbin, who will host the show from New York's Times Square, will be joined by singer Ashlee Simpson, who's hosting the West Coast part of the special. Besides Simpson, performers include Big & Rich; Ciara; Earth, Wind & Fire; Good Charlotte; and Billy Idol.

'Polar Express' surpasses \$100 million

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After a slow start out of the station, "The Polar Express" just keeps chugging along. Taking in nearly \$10 million over the weekend, the holiday tale lifted its domestic total to \$110 million with plenty of steam left for Christmas and New Year's.

A month ago, "The Polar Express" looked like it could be a train wreck, debuting with \$30.6 million in its first five days, an unremarkable start given the movie's \$170 million production cost and the luster of star Tom Hanks and director Robert Zemeckis.

Yet the movie's Christmas theme has given it great staying power, with its three-day gross down just 9 percent this past weekend. Revenues fell far

more sharply for other holdovers in the top 10, ranging from a 32 percent decline for "Christmas With the Kranks" to 70 percent for "Alexander."

"The Polar Express" opened amid a rush of family films, hitting theaters just five days after the blockbuster "The Incredibles" and a week before the action hit "National Treasure." Distributor Warner Bros. sought to build as big an audience as possible for "The Polar Express" early on to position it for a final Christmas rush.

"Our best play time is in front of us," said Dan Fellman, Warner Bros. head of distribution. "We realized the advantage for us was to get as much play time as we could prior to Christmas, because we always felt our movie, which had

fabulous word of mouth, would grow as we got closer to Christmas."

Adapted from Chris Van Allsburg's picture book, "The Polar Express" follows a doubting boy as he regains his faith in the spirit of Christmas during a magical train trip to the North Pole.

The movie was created through "performance-capture" technology, with Hanks and other actors going through the motions on a bare soundstage. Their movements were recorded by infrared sensors, then re-created in digital imagery that resembles the computer animation of "Shrek 2" or "The Incredibles."

The technology allowed for semi-realistic renderings of its human characters, which include Hanks in multiple

roles, among them the boy, the train conductor and Santa Claus.

Reviews were wildly mixed on "The Polar Express," with some critics calling it an instant Christmas classic and others saying the human figures resembled lifeless zombies.

With overseas box-office potential and TV and home-video revenue—plus its prospects as a holiday perennial on television and video—"The Polar Express" now has a solid shot to earn back its enormous production and marketing costs.

"That film's been completely vindicated by its long-term box-office performance," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations.

U2, O'Jays are Rock Hall of Fame inductees

NEW YORK (AP)—Irish rockers U2, R&B singers The O'Jays and soul balladeer Percy Sledge are among five musical legends to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame during the foundation's 20th annual induction ceremony next year, the organization announced Monday.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Foundation will hold its induction ceremony March 14 at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in Manhattan.

U2, which became one of the planet's most popular bands in the 1980s with their megahit "The Joshua Tree," is still making the charts: Their November release, "How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb," is the No. 2 album according to Billboard.

The O'Jays had eight No. 1 R&B hits during the 1970s and '80s, including "Love Train" and "Use Ta Be My Girl." Sledge will forever be associated with "When a Man Loves a Woman," one of the songs that made him a figure in deep Southern Soul in the late 1960s.

The Pretenders and blues guitarist Buddy Guy will also join the organization's Class of 2005.

The artists beat out an impressive list of nominees including Grandmaster Flash & the Furious Five, which would have been the first rap group to



AP

U2 performs, Nov. 22, 2004, at the Fulton Ferry Landing Park, in Brooklyn, New York.

be inducted; "Centerfold" singers the J. Geils Band, and the late country singer Conway Twitty.

Also, Frank Barsalona and Seymour Stein will be inducted in the non-performer category.

Barsalona is credited with creating the first legitimate rock and roll booking agency. His roster included acts like Led Zeppelin, Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band and The Who.

Stein, who is chairman and co-

founder of Sire Records, is noted as one of the most successful executives in the recording industry. He is known for signing artists like Madonna, The Ramones and The Talking Heads.

Musicians, industry professionals and journalists vote on the nominations, which were announced in September. Artists are eligible to be inducted into the Rock Hall after at least 25 years have passed since their first record was released.

'Mary Poppins' gets a makeover in new DVD

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Movie animation has come a long way since Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke frolicked with cartoon penguins, sheep and carousel ponies in "Mary Poppins." Yet fresh off her voice work in the cutting-edge cartoon sequel "Shrek 2," Andrews thinks the blend of live-action and animation holds up splendidly in the 1964 musical fantasy, which gets elaborate new DVD treatment in a 40th anniversary two-disc set out Tuesday.

"I looked at it again, and I'd just come off 'Shrek,' and I know these days how animation has changed and how different it is, the tools they have today," Andrews told The Associated Press. "But you don't see a single crack in the work of 'Poppins,' and they didn't have that technology in those days. It's brilliantly done."

For the new DVD edition, Andrews and Van Dyke teamed up with co-composer Richard Sherman for a reunion segment to reminisce about the film. The set also has an extensive making-of documentary and a new cartoon short featuring Andrews in an adaptation of one of P.L. Travers' "Mary Poppins" stories.

The Disney classic marked Andrews' film debut after a stage career that included originating the role of Eliza Doolittle in the London and Broadway productions of "My Fair Lady."

MELL
+RED/BLUE

Foxx gets record three Golden Globes nods

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Golden Globes are shaping up as a reprise of “The Jamie Foxx Show.” Foxx, star of the sitcom that aired from 1996 to 2001, earned a record three Globe nominations Monday, including one for best musical or comedy actor for his uncanny portrayal of singer Ray Charles in “Ray.”

Also contending in that category: Paul Giamatti for his road-trip flick “Sideways,” which earned a leading seven nominations, among them best musical or comedy. The Howard Hughes film biography “The Aviator” was next with six nominations, including best drama, actor and director.

The Globe honors help position those movies and other leading nominees for Hollywood’s big party, the Academy Awards. (Those nominations come out Jan. 25.)

Along with “The Aviator,” best-drama contenders were the caustic sex tale “Closer”; “Finding Neverland,” exploring the inspirations of “Peter Pan” creator J.M. Barrie; “Hotel Rwanda,” set against the 1990s genocide in that country; “Kinsey,” a film biography of sex researcher Alfred Kinsey; and the boxing drama “Million Dollar Baby.”

Besides “Ray” and “Sideways,” best musical or comedy nominees were the romance “Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind”; the animated superhero tale “The Incredibles”; and the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical “The Phantom of the Opera.”

Foxx, considered a best-actor favorite at the Oscars, also earned nomina-

tions for supporting film actor as a cabbie taken hostage by a hit man in “Collateral” and as best TV movie or miniseries actor for the prison drama “Redemption.”

The nominations came on Foxx’s 37th birthday.

“What a great way to start the day with three birthday gifts,” Foxx said. “I am honored to be mentioned in the same categories with such tremendously talented actors.”

Joining Foxx and Giamatti in the musical or comedy actor field: Jim Carrey as a man trying to erase memories of his ex-girlfriend in “Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind”; Kevin Kline as composer Cole Porter in “De-Lovely”; and Kevin Spacey as singer Bobby Darin in “Beyond the Sea.”

Character actor Giamatti has managed to break into lead roles playing two back-to-back curmudgeons—“Sideways” follows his 2003 turn as comic-book grouch Harvey Pekar in “American Splendor.” His “Sideways” character is such a loser he steals money from his mother, yet audiences end up rooting for him to find love and happiness.

“He’s kind of an unlikable guy,” Giamatti said. “I say that he’s unlikable but I suppose he has an essential decency about him.”

Carrey’s “Eternal Sunshine” co-star Kate Winslet, playing his former girlfriend, and Kline’s “De-Lovely” cast mate Ashley Judd, as Porter’s wife,

were among musical or comedy actress nominees. The others: Annette Bening as a London stage diva in “Being Julia”; Emmy Rossum as a theater ingenue in “Phantom of the Opera”; and Renee Zellweger as the title character in “Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason.”

All five dramatic actor nominees played real-life characters: Javier Bardem in “The Sea Inside,” as Ramon Sampedro, who fought for his right to die after a paralyzing accident; Don Cheadle as innkeeper Paul

Rusesabagina, who shelters refugees in “Hotel Rwanda”; Johnny Depp as playwright Barrie in “Finding Neverland”; Leonardo DiCaprio as Hughes in “The Aviator”; and Liam Neeson as the sex researcher in “Kinsey.”

Dramatic lead actress nominees were Scarlett Johansson in “A Love Song for Bobby Long,” playing a teen who finds an unlikely extended family; Nicole Kidman as a woman visited by a boy claiming to be her dead husband in “Birth”; Imelda Staunton as the title character in the abortion drama “Vera Drake”; Hilary Swank as a boxer in “Million Dollar Baby”; and Uma Thurman as a vengeful former assassin in “Kill Bill—Vol. 2.”

Swank, a Golden Globe and Oscar winner for “Boys Don’t Cry,” trained six days a week for three months for “Million Dollar Baby,” eating 210 grams of protein a day and gaining 19 pounds of muscle.



Foxx

‘Sideways’ wins New York Film Critics’ honor

NEW YORK (AP)—The awards keep pouring in for “Sideways,” which the New York Film Critics Circle named the best picture of 2004. Part comedy, part drama, the film about middle-aged best friends who go on a wine-tasting road trip outside Santa Barbara also earned honors for two of its four stars, Paul Giamatti and Virginia Madsen, and for its screenplay, which director Alexander Payne co-wrote with Jim Taylor.

Giamatti, who gives a poignant portrayal of a miserable, divorced wine snob, was named best actor, and Madsen won the supporting-actress award for playing a waitress and fellow wine lover with whom he hesitantly forges a romance.

Thelma Adams, a critic for Us Weekly and the group’s chairwoman, explained the appeal of “Sideways” as “a generational thing.” Besides winning four awards from the New York critics on Monday, the film got the most Golden Globe nominations with seven, including best picture in the musical or comedy category.

“I don’t think this is a twentysomething movie. I think it’s a movie that works for the over-30 crowd,” Adams said after the winners were announced. “It’s a great movie, great script, great actors. I think now we understand Alexander Payne, after ‘Election’ and ‘About Schmidt.’ We know who he is, we know what he’s trying to do.”

“This is an indie movie. It has Virginia Madsen—it doesn’t have Julia Roberts. It has Sandra Oh—it doesn’t



In this promotional photo released by Fox Searchlight Pictures, actors Paul Giamatti, left, and Thomas Haden Church appear in a scene from “Sideways.”

have Natalie Portman,” she added, referring to the movie “Closer.” “It hinges on Paul who? Giamatti, a guy with hair on his shoulders—and a great, great actor. And these are the people who are overlooked.”

But the group spread the honors around by naming Clint Eastwood as best director for “Million Dollar Baby,” in which he also co-stars as a boxing manager who reluctantly

agrees to train a determined female fighter, played by Hilary Swank.

Imelda Staunton, who has been raking in the awards from critics’ groups coast to coast in recent days, took the best-actress category for “Vera Drake.” Staunton, who stars in the title role as a housekeeper who secretly performs abortions in 1950s Britain, also has been honored by Los Angeles reviewers and New

York’s online critics. “It’s amazing what a machine the body is, how it can adapt. I have a whole new respect for what my body can do,” said Swank, also nominated for best actress in a TV movie or miniseries for the suffrage drama “Iron Jawed Angels.”

Swank’s co-star and director, Clint Eastwood, also received two Globe nominations, for directing and his “Million Dollar Baby” musical score.

Along with Eastwood, Globe directing nominees were Martin Scorsese, “The Aviator”; Marc Forster, “Finding Neverland”; Mike Nichols, “Closer”; and Alexander Payne, “Sideways.”

An art-house favorite, “Sideways” is proving to be the year’s critical darling. On Monday, the New York Film Critics Circle named it 2004’s best picture. Over the weekend, the Los Angeles Film Critics Association and the New York Film Critics Online did the same. Still, comedies tend to fare poorly at the Oscars, which favor sober drama. The six nominations for “The Aviator” solidify that film’s prospects as a potential best-picture front-runner for the Oscars.

“The Aviator” has the epic historical scope that often catches academy voters’ fancy, and it focuses heavily on Hughes’ years as a movie producer, subject matter dear to Hollywood.

“It’s the type of movie that really doesn’t get made anymore,” DiCaprio said. “It’s not just the epic scope of the film, but to have a picture with this type of attention put into it. The backdrop, the setting of the time period, the lavish sets and characters.”

And Scorsese may be a sentimental favorite, a beloved filmmaker whose movies have never won the best-picture or director Oscars.

For TV, the drama series picks were “24,” “Deadwood,” “Lost,” “Nip/Tuck” and “The Sopranos,” while the comedy nominees were “Arrested Development,” “Desperate Housewives,” “Entourage,” “Sex and the City” and “Will & Grace.”

Golden Globes are handed out by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, a comparatively small group of about 90 reporters for overseas news outlets. The Globe ceremony Jan. 16 will be televised live on NBC.

While the Globes boost Oscar chances for big-budget films, they also draw academy attention to smaller movies such as “A Love Song for Bobby Long,” starring John Travolta as a hard-luck case who becomes father figure for nominee Johansson’s character.

Johansson, a double Globe nominee last year for “Lost in Translation” and “Girl With a Pearl Earring,” subsequently was invited into the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, so she can vote on the upcoming Oscars.

“I’m certainly going to cast a vote for John, because it’s one of the best performances of his whole career, and certainly for ‘A Love Song for Bobby Long,’ because I think it’s one of the best films of the year,” Johansson said. “As far as nominating myself, I probably won’t. However, my mother will probably check the box for me.”

“Fahrenheit 9/11,” was named best nonfiction film.

The group gave the foreign-language film award to Pedro Almodovar’s “Bad Education,” about two men who fell in love as Catholic schoolboys in Franco-era Madrid, but were torn apart by a jealous priest. The Spanish director was the subject of a retrospective during the New York Film Festival in October.

Christopher Doyle, who shot Chinese director Zhang Yimou’s sumptuous martial-arts epic “Hero,” was named best cinematographer.

“The Incredibles,” the latest Pixar extravaganza about a family of superheroes, won the animated film category.

And the award for best first film went to “Maria Full of Grace,” writer-director Joshua Marston’s story of a 17-year-old Colombian girl who becomes a drug mule.

Earlier in the day, Giamatti, Staunton, Owen and Madsen also were nominated for Golden Globe Awards.

“Sideways” also has taken top honors from Los Angeles’ critics and the New York Film Critics Online, and the American Film Institute and the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures both have listed it among the year’s 10 best. Adams predicted that with such universal praise, the film is “a slam dunk” to receive a best-picture Oscar nomination.

The New York Film Critics Circle is composed of 34 reviewers who write for the city’s daily newspapers and for New York-based weekly publications.

Anderson sought after as poker opponent

NEW YORK (AP)—Pamela Anderson wins with a full house. In an online survey conducted by EmpirePoker.com, 42 percent of the Web site's VIPs selected model-actress Anderson as the celebrity they would most like to play against.

"Our players clearly think Pamela Anderson isn't too bright or maybe they just want to ogle her," said Ron Burke, EmpirePoker.com's marketing manager.

Dennis Rodman was a distant second with 24 percent, James Woods shuffled 13 percent, Dave Navarro was picked by 10 percent, skateboarder Tony Hawk and Matt Damon each drew 3 percent, Donald Trump was selected by 2 percent and 1 percent said Ben Affleck. Hank Azaria, Michael Ian Black, Ron Artest, Clay Aiken and Teri Hatcher also picked up votes.

"Many of our respondents also said they felt they could



read Dennis Rodman's expressions and didn't think he would be very competitive," said Burke in a recent statement. "Only 1 percent of our players said they would want to play against Ben Affleck. Apparently, his poker skills precede him."

Well, maybe not. When asked which celebrity would be most likely to cheat at poker, 37 percent of those surveyed chose Affleck.

"Our players clearly see Ben Affleck and James Woods as no-nonsense, hardcore poker players and it's quite interesting that they would seem to be the most likely to cheat," said Burke.

Pamela Anderson poses at the Los Angeles book signing of "Star: A Novel" at Virgin Megastore on in this Aug. 7, 2004, file photo. AP

Smelly socks worn by Ed Harris sold

WATERVILLE, Maine (AP)—Smelly socks worn by Ed Harris during the filming of "Empire Falls" were among the treasures snatched up by fans during a weekend sale of props and costumes from the HBO movie.

On Saturday, about 300 people bought a variety of items used by Harris, Paul Newman, Joanne Woodward and Helen Hunt during last year's filming in the Waterville-Skowhegan area.

The sale concluded Sunday after the remaining items were marked down in price. Proceeds will help defray the costs of the film, directed by Fred Schepisi and also starring Philip Seymour Hoffman, Robin Wright Penn and Kate Burton.

The inventory included racks of clothes, shoes, license plates, jewelry, books, signs, gazebos, a couch, menus, a wet suit worn by Woodward and a "fat suit" worn by Hunt.

"I've got Ed Harris' socks, and they smell, but I'm not washing them," said Bonnie Goodwin, pulling her loot out of a plastic bag. "I've got William Fichtner's shirt and Danielle Panabaker's earrings."

The movie, to air on HBO in May, is based on Richard Russo's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about an economically depressed mill town in Maine.

"One lady bought \$2,200 worth of items," said David Huard, who was staffing a special case of items, including ivory-colored costume earrings worn by Woodward.

Among the bigger items were several large wooden signs, including one that says Empire Falls, and gravestones that look like granite but are made of wood. They were used in a cemetery scene in which Newman appeared.

Washington trades on options' desk

NEW YORK (AP)—Just call it "Trading Day."

Academy Award-winning actor Denzel Washington landed in the hot seat Thursday on the interest-rate options desk of ICAP PLC as part of a charity event.

One of the brokers on the desk in Jersey City, N.J., quickly handed the actor a phone and asked him to execute a trade. Traders on this type of desk don't need any sort of license to trade.

Soon, Washington was cradling two phones in a typical broker's fashion.

When he innocently asked the other brokers if the customer on the other end of the phone was "doing the yard," a trade that totals \$1 billion, two

brokers quickly turned serious and shouted "No, no, no!"

"No, you're doing the yard," shouted one. The crisis was averted, the trade was executed and the firm's \$25,000 commission was given to charity. When he heard the amount, Washington joked, "let's do two yards then."

The actor and director wasn't the only one changing roles Thursday. When Washington walked into ICAP's North American headquarters, brokers quickly transformed into an adoring throng that moved with the actor as he snaked around the company's fixed-income trading desks.

Camera phones and digital cameras were whipped out to

snap shots of the star of "Training Day," "Philadelphia" and "The Hurricane" posing with star-struck ICAP employees.

It was all for a good cause. Washington stopped by to thank ICAP for donating the day's North American profits to a number of charities, including the one he has championed for years, the Boys and Girls Club of America.

Last year, the company, a major interbroker dealer of U.S. Treasury notes, raised \$2.3 million in the one-day charity event. This year, they hope to bring in \$2.5 million.

ICAP, based in London, is a wholesale broker of derivatives, money markets and securities.

Jackson lawyers move to dismiss charges

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's lawyers have filed a motion to dismiss the child molestation charges against the pop star on grounds of "vindictive prosecution and outrageous government conduct."

They also want to push back the Jan. 31 trial date that Superior Court Judge Rodney Melville has pressed lawyers to meet for starting jury selection.

The motions, filed Dec. 10 and made available Monday, are scheduled for argument in hearings to begin Dec. 20.

The defense also asked Melville to suppress all evidence seized under the latest search warrants in the case. That motion and the others likely stem from an unexpected search of Jackson's Neverland ranch on Dec. 3 and 4 during which authorities also took a DNA sample from the entertainer.

Legal experts had predicted that the searches, on the eve of a deadline for turning over all discovery materials, would set the stage for defense lawyers to seek a delay in starting the trial.

"How do you go to trial in a case when they are still serving search warrants?" said Loyola



Michael Jackson gestures to fans from atop his SUV after his arraignment on child molestation charges at the courthouse in Santa Maria, Calif., in this Jan. 16, 2004, file photo. AP

University Law Professor Laurie Levenson.

Lawyers in the case, who are abiding by the judge's strict gag order, refused to comment on the new filings.

The 46-year-old entertainer has pleaded not guilty to charges of child molestation, conspiracy and administering an intoxicating agent, alcohol, to his alleged victim.

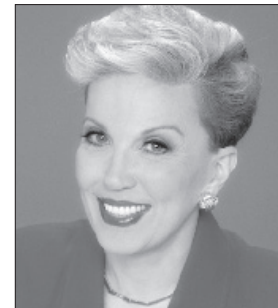
Soldier in Iraq looks forward to peace and quiet at home

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: I am a female member of the military, stationed for the past nine months in Iraq. I recently received a letter from a friend who is having problems in her marriage. She has asked to move in with me when I return to the states in about three months. She says it's only until she gets back on her feet.

There's no way I can let that happen. She has too much drama in her life, and I have grown accustomed to living by myself. When I get home, all I want is peace and quiet. How can I tell her that I don't want a roommate without hurting her feelings?

PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST



Dear Abby

DEAR PEACE: Be direct, and don't go into detail. Tell her that your tour of duty has been stressful—it's the truth—and that when you return home you plan to live alone. Do not talk about the drama in her life. Talk about the drama that's been going on in your life. You have a right to peace of mind, and your friend should not expect you to straighten her life out for her. After a tour in Iraq, you've done enough.

DEAR ABBY: I was seeing someone in the apartment complex where I live. It was the maintenance man, "Stan." At first, we kept it quiet because of problems I have with my ex, "Mac." Mac and I have children together and he always finds ways to destroy my new dates—so the less he knows, the better.

But I was falling in love with Stan, so one night we decided to go out in public. Mac found out and had a friend of his tell me Stan could lose his job.

Since I can't afford to move and didn't want Stan to lose his job, I started avoiding him. It's been six weeks, and I feel I have lost the best thing that ever happened to me. Please tell me what to do.

GRIEVING IN MICHIGAN

DEAR GRIEVING: The first thing to do is pick up the phone and contact the office of the building. Without being specific, inquire if there is any formal policy regarding residents fraternizing with staff.

If there is a rule that forbids it, rather than avoiding Stan, I advise you to have a serious chat with him. If you both want to pursue a relationship and moving isn't an option, perhaps he should find a job with another building. Good maintenance men are hard to find.

DEAR ABBY: I met someone almost a year ago. "Donald" and I dated for several months, but it ended badly. A few months ago, we started communicating again—and I thought everything was going well. Then, all of a sudden out of the blue, he stopped calling.

We were intimate each time I saw him. Now I am pregnant.

Abby, I'm 44 and have never had a child. Donald is 50 and has never been married or fathered a child either. I have left him several messages since I learned I was pregnant and have asked why he hasn't returned my calls. He has not contacted me.

I feel absolutely abandoned, hurt and betrayed. Donald is a wealthy playboy, and sometimes extremely selfish. I want this child, but need some sort of acknowledgement from him. What should I do?

SHOCKED, DISTRAUGHT AND PREGNANT IN OHIO

DEAR PREGNANT: Pick up the phone and make one more call—to an attorney. It will be a good investment. You may feel hurt, abandoned and betrayed, but I see child support in your future. It's time for the daddy-to-be to step up to the plate.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Pastimes



